

Claims

1. A method for assigning a slot cycle within a communication system, the method comprising the steps of:
 - 5 determining a first slot cycle for a first plurality of remote units;
 - determining a second slot cycle for a second plurality of remote units;
 - assigning the first slot cycle to the first plurality of remote units; and
 - assigning the second slot cycle to the second plurality of remote units.
- 10 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining the first slot cycle for the first plurality of remote units comprises the step of determining the first slot cycle for a plurality of remote units operating in a first mode.
- 15 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining the second slot cycle for the second plurality of remote units comprises the step of determining the second slot cycle for a plurality of remote units operating in a second mode.
- 20 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of assigning the first slot cycle to the first plurality of remote units comprises the step of transmitting a first message over a paging channel, the first message comprising the first slot cycle.
- 25 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of broadcasting the second slot cycle to the second plurality of remote units comprises the step of transmitting a second message over the paging channel, the second message comprising the second slot cycle.
- 30 6. A method comprising the steps of:
 - determining a mode of operation;
 - receiving a first slot cycle;
 - receiving a second slot cycle; and
 - using the first slot cycle when operating in a first mode of operation
 - otherwise using the second slot cycle when operating in a second mode of operation.

15. An apparatus comprising:

a receiver receiving a first and a second slot cycle; and

logic circuitry coupled to the receiver, the logic circuitry determining a
mode of operation and utilizes the first slot cycle when operating in a first mode
of operation, otherwise utilizes the second slot cycle when operating in a second
mode of operation.

16. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the logic circuitry utilizes the first slot
cycle when operating only in a dispatch mode, otherwise utilizes the second slot
cycle when operating in a non-dispatch mode.

0903737-06401